

for the President

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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November 6, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Pursuant to the President's instructions (see my Memorandum for the Files of November 2, 1962), I took Ambassador Alphand aside at a dinner on November 5 and told him about the report of the dinner at Stew Alsop's. Ambassador Alphand told me the following:

- (1) He had not been present at the dinner.
- (2) He had only shown the copy of Khrushchev's letter of October 26 to one other person in his Embassy.
- (3) He wished to point out that the Rowland Evans story provided no evidence that Evans had actually seen a copy of the letter.

This afternoon the Counselor of the French Embassy, Mr. Winckler, came to see me and said he had been distressed to hear what I had told the Ambassador yesterday evening. He told me that he was the member of the French Embassy who had been at the Alsop dinner, which Bill Bundy and Al Friendly also attended. He said that Rowland Evans had started right away talking about the Khrushchev letter in terms suggesting that he had heard from someone that its tone was peculiar and denoted great excitement and nervousness. Mr. Winckler said that Rowland Evans obviously felt he already had a story and was casting about for additional details. Mr. Winckler said that he made no comment on the letter, and that when Rowland Evans pressed the matter with him after dinner, he confined himself to saying that the letter was confidential and that he did not feel he could discuss it. Mr. Winckler said that while the story which Evans finally wrote was longer and more circumstantial than what he said that evening, it was clear that Evans felt he was on the track of a good story and was building it up as he talked about it.

EUR:WRTyler:mt

WRT
William R. Tyler

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State Letter 11/11/77
By *[Signature]* NARS, Date *12/3/77*

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